

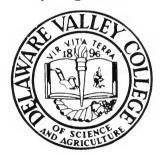
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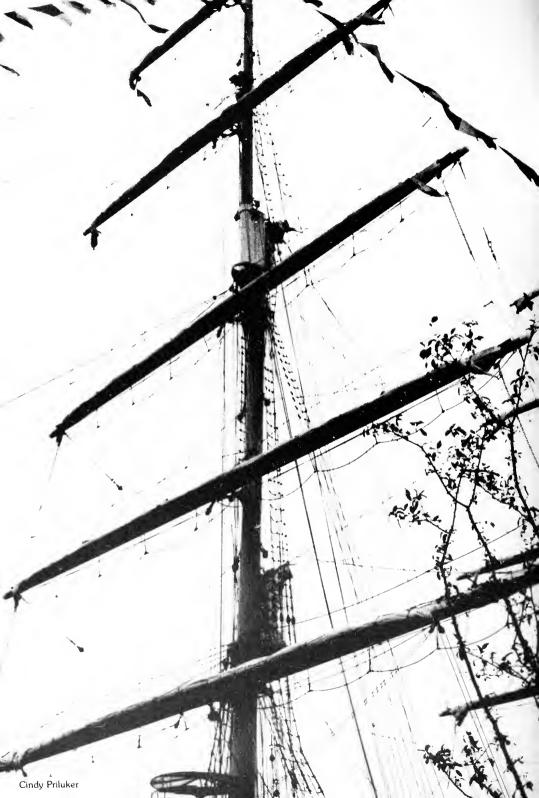
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Reflections on time when things were a lot simpler Now everything is tied in knots, chains we have put on ourselves. self-imposed limitations. Life is simple. We as people living and feeling, we make it complicated. If we could just be happy with the simple things. Instead of always, looking for problems. searching for complications. It is human nature to be always looking for more. Never accepting things for what they seem on the surface. Often under the surface. people are much more complicated. We must search deeper to find the worthwhile, the special care of each person. So on we go looking for complications, because we feel we must.

-- Nancy Lukert

My life is made of shapes and lines yet never follow one design.

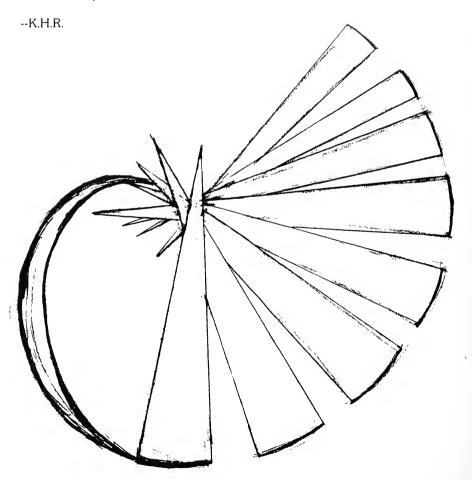
Never straight and never curved and never easy to observe.

It's up and down, in and out but always me without a doubt.

Circles—squares—other various shapes help to make up my landscape.

Straight curved imaginary lines live together in my mind.

Although I'm basically designed I'm never easy to define.



Sunrise

And when the sun goes down
So does my false smile.
As I lay down all alone
My mind wanders for awhile.
There's no protection from my thoughts
Or the way I feel inside.
How often I've fought
Lost in fears . . . and cried.
So I pray each night, "God, end my pain."
For we all have to die.
And then it comes again
Sunrise

-- Carl Vivaldi



Destination

If I was to leave Could I trust in our feelings To hold us together, to keep us strong If you think you have lost me If you think that it's over I've just got to say, that you're wrong

It's not my way And it's not my revelation And it's not what I want It's just my destination

The future is near
Though this way it never comes
And yesterday's dreams will help me hang on
The roads ahead are uncertain
They are far too long, and much too cold
Can I trust in you to help me be strong
To help me carry on...

--bill demott



Barb Brennan



Doug Berecz

Softly falling
The snow touches my cheek,
Lands gently on my hand,
Glistens in the light.
I see with awe
The complex beauty
Of each tiny crystal.
But the heat of my hand
Is overwhelming
And the fragile wonder fades.
Is that what happened;
Was I too warm?

New Shoes

Been awhile, for new shoes Breakin' em in, never easy Blistered heels, achin' all over Clumsy walk, awkward lookin' Can't forget, they all laughed The shoes were new, so was I Didn't take long though

Didn't take long though Callused blisters, achin' gone Clumsy came cool, awkward went lookin' The shoes broke in, so did I Time for new shoes

-- Dan Schwalm







Richard Rollins



Watching vou sleep.. You look so peaceful, in our own world. What are vour thoughts? Do you feel at peace? Are vou confused? Try to clear your mind, come to peace with vourself, vou are so handsome. Those big brown eves, they seem to reflect all of your thoughts. Sometimes I can look into them and they reflect an image, like a mirror, vou can't see in. Sometimes when I close my eves I think of vou. Often when I close my eyes I think of vou. I wonder if you can see into my eyes, like I can see into vours. More often I wonder if I want to let you.

--Nancy Lukert



So Alone

Sometimes I sit And watch you hide behind A wall of jokes,

of witty sayings, of funny stories.

I watch you laugh

when you want to cry.

I watch you flit

like a hummingbird

From one subject to the next—

never resting long in one place-

Afraid to be caught.

I watch you And I wonder how. When you are with So many people, You can be So alone.

--Wanda M. Perugini



Sarah Cox

A Poem For Joey

you're struggling and you have no way to turn. You've been rejected and in your aloneness vou must strike out at anyone including yourself to take away the hurt. I feel so helplesswanting you to know that you are loved, and with time you'll be able to begin again. -- Allison Townshend Tony Prushinski



Magdeline Jean

Her name they say was Magdeline Jean She flew like the wind, she lived in a dream She looked for the beauty in all that she found Until the day when they brought her down to Reality, said now you must learn to Survive, to be real, even if you get burned

Shut the door, turn the key Dear Magdeline Jean

Magdeline Jean, she grew up all alone
Constantly fighting for what she had known
Long ago, far away, how happy she was
But all of that changed, she became one of us
Her hopes splashed apart, like shattering glass
Till they couldn't be found, they were part of her past

Look away from the scene
Dear Magdeline Jean
Magdeline Jean she retired from life
She was sick of hatred, sick of the strife
She bought a small tree and lived deep inside
For the rest of her life, she managed to hide

And she prayed with the clouds, communed with the earth And forever was happy, she'd acquired rebirth.

May you laugh and be free Dear Magdeline Jean

--Jennifer Conway

Soft, gentle breezes blow over the sea Carrying the sound of seagull cries And waves pounding on the shore As I walk I hear them and my mind Is filled with joy Remembering

--Carl Vivaldi



i need the directions before i begini want the conditions before i sign and say, yes

will you help me?
i need to know if it's important enough
for tears;

or can it be smiled away; like always

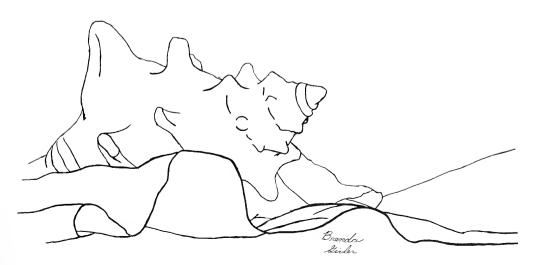
can you tell me? i want what's deep inside to crest and break like waves,

the pain dispersed in the sea; foam the only evidence of what was--

how's it done?
do you know?
i want happiness to be real and forever
and the insecurities a dim illusion
of the past

can you guarantee it? where do i sign?

--D. L. W.



I don't know what I'm thinking of, Last night when I slept I dreamt we made love; You are my friend not my lover, But in my dream there was no other; -----please explain what's happening to me, For this fact now I see; Forgive me please O God above, For what I feel is not love.

Love is sharing, giving and caring, Love causes the heart to feel as if it's tearing; It's lust I feel and nothing more, But he loves another and so therefore; It is not right to feel this lust, But I shall feel it 'till my body is dust.

When you are near I must look away, If you speak, no words will I say; Now I'm wary and you'll never know why, The events of my dream have made me so shy; Help me please help me I want to stay friends, But I can't, I just can't if my dream never ends.

--Anonymous





I came into a half-filled room Where none were right and none were wrong I took a chair off to the left

To get a better view.
One by one they came inside
To sit in silence
by my side and others
They knew not why
They were there at all.

Then He entered confidently Educator, apostle, missionary Are you the teacher of the Soul? Master teach me well.

--Carl Vivaldi





My heart has been softened. My emotions possesed, I am independent Yet captured by your love.

--Linda H. Hahn

nothing gained-Sunshine forecast ended up rain-Remember dreams

Everything lost

they don't fade-They won't just happen

they must be made-

Pull yourself together

stand up strong-

The hell with them

your dreams aren't wrong!

--K. H. R.



Steven Stanford

In Search Of Self

I am on a search

For courage And strength--

The strength to face the truth

About myself;

To discover who I really am

Instead of what I appear to be;

To look through my own eyes--

If just for an instant--

And see the world unclouded by other's views;

To say what I believe

Instead of what people want to hear;

To speak my heart--

To lay all it contains open before you-And not be afraid of that vulnerability;

To laugh at life;

To be angry at injustice;

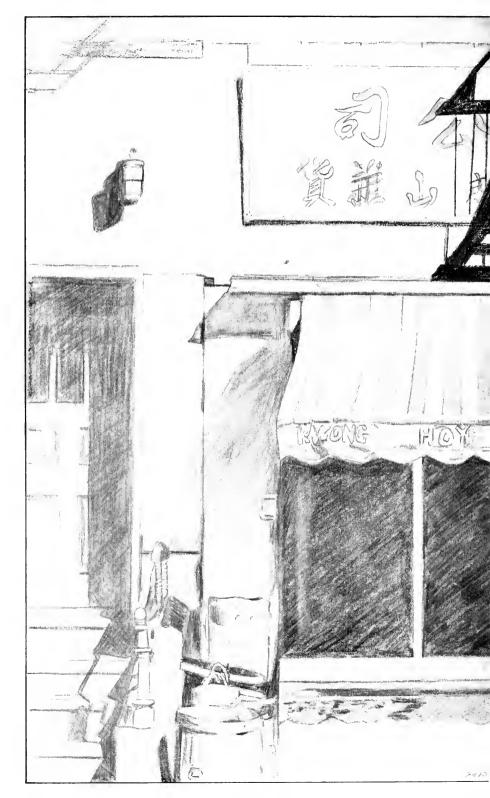
To cry real tears.

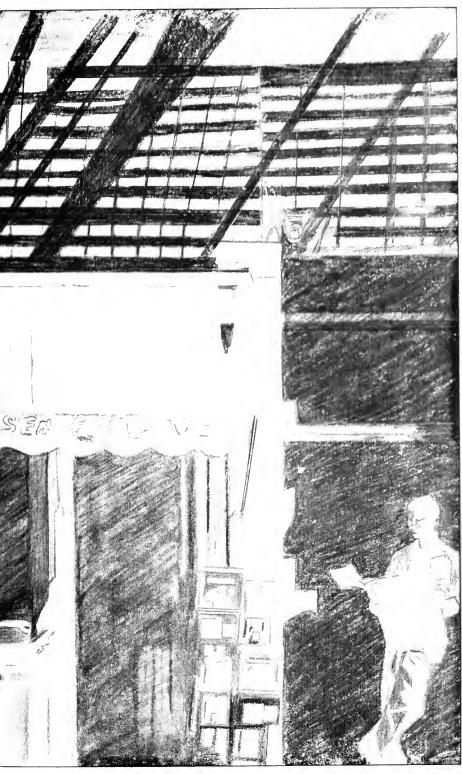
--Wanda M. Perugini

I once sat backward
on a train
going forward
and wondered-Am I looking at
my past
Or,
afraid to face
the future.

--dkp







Richard Rollins

We met in late summer.

While the sun still shot warm rays,

and life in nature was peaking.

Green plants spiked to the sky.

Vivid colored fruit and the two of us ripened to maturity.

We sat together in the Orchard

Never imagining what lay ahead of us.

Whether the tree we were under was apple or peach. Or if what we shared God had planted in our souls and bodies.

We fell in love in autumn.

With the cornstalks still standing, and the trees ablaze with color.

The leaves throughout semed to be burning with eternity. Just as the love we felt for each other was as solid as that rock in the woods.

We walked together in winter.

Finally the snow came, falling in the night.

Under falling stars, the moonlight shone.

The world seemed to sparkle outside, as well as in our hearts.

We made wishes - never to be forgotten.

Real enough for us to share and be part of.

Like the lake and the geese.

The snow on your coat, and me on your shoulder.

--anonymous



FRIENDSHIP:

a binding contract you sign with laughterand break with tears.

--Allison Townshend



Love is:

Like an ever running river In a forest of evergreens. It's a never ending feeling In a never ending dream.

--Amy Harrison

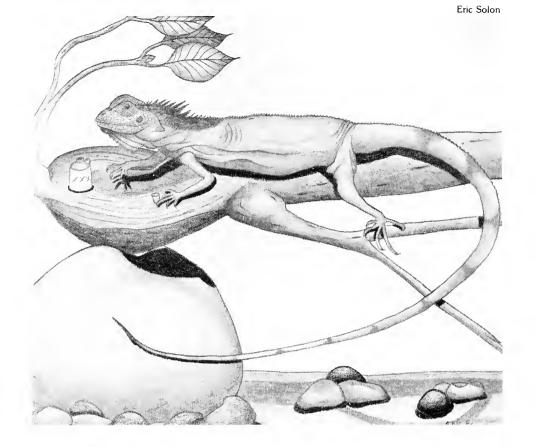
I Love Youthere I said it.
relief
from the bottled up
emotions in my head
and heart.
Disappointed?
I'm sorry
I never was good
at hiding
feelings.

--mhd

Novel Love

A love that was never known
Is like a book never opened.
A look at its cover
Could never display what lies within.
You never experience the joy
Which is hidden between its words.
You never know what might have been
If just someday you broke that binding.

--June Guzikowski



Glycerine tears or real? to borrow time or steal--

Immitation or McCoy a real love or just a toy?

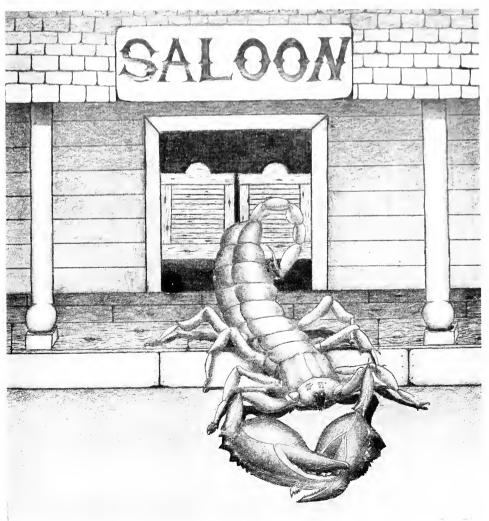
False pretense or genuine is it full or just part time?

Is it missing? Is it lost? was it thrown or was it tossed--

Was it altered, has it changed-just mixed up or rearranged?

Am I lost or am I found-in the air or on the ground? --khr Laugh
with me till morningFor when morning comes
Reality
will twist our thoughts and
Guilt
will enter our chambers
through the windows left open by
Society.

--Jennifer Conway





Someone Else

What kind of game is it you play when the stakes are someone else's feelings?

Do you care how much you spend when someone else pays the price?

Why should you care who takes the fall when someone else takes the blame?

What does it matter who gets hurt as long as they are someone else's tears?

I was the someone who loved you and now there's SOMEONE ELSE!

--Susan Richart

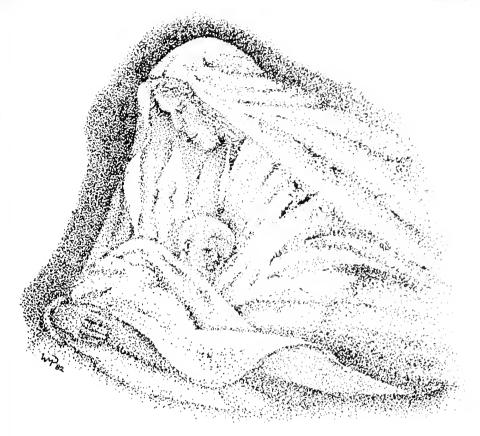
Cloud

You're just a dusty road traveller weary and abused
It seems the more you travel the more you're bound to lose your hopes, your dreams, your self-esteem That's taken years to find And now it's wrapped around your head and messin'up your mind

They look at you and shake their heads
This son they thought they knew
He hears in colors, sees in sounds
and always seems to wander round
not knowing what he needs to find
not knowing what he wants to be
not knowing if it's worth it just to worry endlessly

But if they knew your secrets
That were buried deep inside
If they could see your visions
filled with colors, filled with pride
Then they would know your travelling
was something you must do
'Cause if you had to settle down
then your dreams might not come true.





Singular Beauty

I see you there
Among the reeds,
blending in so well.
So much like the rest
in a crowded marsh,
yet feeling alone.
Breezes blow
and you dance unnoticed,
yet another day and still silent.
Why haven't I noticed before
that special glow
that singular beauty?

--Paul Luccia



My Best Friend

As I pull the car in the driveway she's always the first one to greet me. In her dirty, old gray coat and sparkling green eyes, she looks so beautiful. We walk into the kitchen together, me holding the door for her, and take our usual seats. She watches me, able to detect my mood just by my footsteps. I ask her how she's been and tell her all the troubles of my life. She's always there to lend an ear and never interrupts a word. Then I look at her life--so simple, it makes me laugh all my troubles away. We both turn in the direction of my mother's voice as she shouts, "Oh Hi Lin, that you? Say, did the cat come in with you?"

Yeah ma, it's me. We're here in the kitchen.

--Linda H. Hahn

Your kindness
Has made me see.
Your gentleness
Has made me feel.
Your eyes
Let me believe.
You
Let my heart listen.

--Donna Lee Lombardi

I broke down and let
you in
shared with you
my dreams.
Told you secrets never revealed
and all my fantasies
It's dumb to listen to
a foolish heart-All that it craves
is pain.
You led me on
coaxed and teased,
yet I'm the one
who bleeds.

--Tillie Docalovich



Arlene Stein

-Story of Love

Isn't it funny how love seems to go They say take it easy, take it slow But I wish they could know How sometimes it's my only foe

Now you tell me I am not the only one Who's ever felt this way
But lately it's always been me
Can I take it another day?

Love is a chain that holds us together But in my eyes there is a missing part Because you were the one I needed forever So you're gone, now it's goodby to my heart

I am alone again, but it's nothing new Do you ever think of me? I know I'll find loves paths again Because it is a feeling I can't let be.

--Bill Demott



Brenda Givler



Autumn Leaves

 $Brightly\ colored\ leaves$ of

oranges, reds, yellow and browns.

Fall ever so softly on the wings of a whispering wind

floating, spinning twirling, tumbling to the ground.

,

--D. Fosbrook

Autumn

As the summer slowly drifts into fall,
Leaves of green fade into crimson and gold.
The air becomes crisp and blusteryLeaves slowly falling then,
Crunch and crackle beneath your feet.
Little by little- Autumn subsides into
the dead of winter.

--Maribeth Giannone

To a Special Friend

When you smile time seems to stop.

Given a passing glance, I wish I could keep it to have when you're not there.

Through your placid eyes I see a beautiful person.

If I could be your shadow I would

be behind you when you thought no one else would.

If I could be in your thoughts as you are always in mine I would always have something to smile about, time after time.

The time we share I cherish, even though it may be short. I wish we could talk, really talk

not simple chatter to take up the time we share, but a talk that lets that beautiful person come out to meet the beautiful person on the outside.

Your grin warms me, like the heat from the sun, or a hug from your best friend.

I'm here for you

to listen,

to help

to be there when you need me.

I thank you for what you share, the time you take to talk, the warmth you show. I thank you for being you.

--anonymous





Run

Dust your path with magic and follow the golden sun Break your way to freedom 'cause now you're on the run. . .

Once you stood for freedom and roamed the open plains But then they broke their promise now nothing of yours remains. . .

Your followers are good now they killed them just for play But you'll still run wild

so run, just get away. . .

Your end will soon be coming they've driven you round and round

But you'll still keep on running until they track you down. . .



Explaining things from days of old Wondering why you are here Someone who is always with us who will wipe away your tear

You accept Kim gladly in your heart Your happiness will grow But these earthly things project an image at someone you do not know

Furgetting Jaim and carrying an Not knuwing what you do The days of old are still the same naw the deman is inside of you.



The Aged Child

I sit here wishful of younger days when time seemed to stand still But what a fool not to know that time goes on until

Forever; but I'll be gone then with nothing to show for I spend my days as a child and the adult will never know

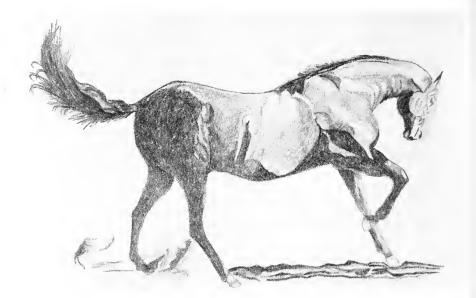
Me; for I'm as young as a babe as I set my spirit free Each breath vigorous and alive and no one will see me

Older; time passing me by living and then swept away to die And I would live forever if I was able in my imaginary fable

As a child; but time continues as cruel as it can be A day older with each new dawn and I rely on the memory

Of me; an Aged Child with death knocking at my door As I pass through the heavens I begin to live once more.

--Eileen Geary



Lauren Clawson



Pat Duffy



Jacky Mento



Moons of Marches from our eyes Borneo land behind us lies; Stranger round us day by day Bends the desert circle gray; Wild the waves of sand are flowing, Hot the winds above them blowing--Lord of all things-- Where are we going? Where are we going?

We are weak, but thou art strong; Short our lives, but thine is long; We are blind, but thou hast eyes; We are fools, but thou art wise Thou, our marrow's pathway knowing Through the strange world round us growing, Hear us, tell us where are we going, Where are we going?

--Leigh Phillips





Barb Taft

A Standout. . .

A standout in my life--the closest thing I have to feel

I vaguely see your reflections in the pond, where I sometimes kneel.

A standout in the way you used to hold my hand--

And as we walked together countless times--barefoot in the sand. . .

A standout in my heart--I will never forget our once endless love

All I can do now is gaze in the stars above;

Because sometimes love has a way with young minds

It's tricky and deceiving--sometimes sneaks up from behind.

A standout vou have been--

Though, as nature takes its course our love has spread so thin. . .

A standout to the end--I will never forget the past--

Our roads may split in two--but may our love forever last. . .

-- Janice McNeil



PEACE

When the storm is over And the trees are still

A tiny bird sits perched Upon a snow covered limb

It is so very quiet now And a silence surrounds me

With a peace That I've never felt before.

--D. Fosbrook

Graduation

Graduation.

I've waited for this day for years! Envious juniors and proud parents, Handshakes, smiles, and diplomas all around. I'm actually finished! Free to conquer the world.

Graduation.

I've stalled this day for years.

How can I say goodbye to these most precious friends?

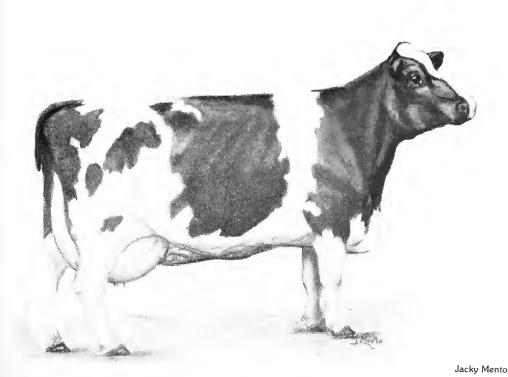
The emptiness of our parting can never be filled by the memories.

I wish them the best in life.

For I know,

That's what they have given me.

--Paul Luccia



Since

I have an

u-n-k-n-o-w-n

amount of time to

burn,

let me be a



-- Dr. Richard C. Ziemer



